

REMARKS

The Examiner's Action mailed on July 25, 2005 has been received and its contents carefully considered.

Claims 1-8 are pending in this application. Claims 2-3 are amended, and new claims 9-20 are added herein. Claim 1, 5 and 8 remain the independent claims in this application.

In the Action, the drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference characters not mentioned in the description: RRT at pad 31 and CRT at pad 71 in Figure 1. The Examiner's objection is addressed herein by amending the appropriate paragraphs of the specification, as shown on page 2 above, to incorporate the missing references.

The drawings are also objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference signs mentioned in the description: row replacement circuit 30 (lines 1-3 and 8, page 5); and output buffer 100A (Line 16, page 8). This objection has been addressed by correcting Figure 1 to include the missing reference signs. Specifically, reference designation "30" is added to the ROW-REPLACEMENT CIRCUIT and reference designation "100A" is added the OUTPUT BUFFER. In addition, the spelling of MEMORY CELL ARRAY 10 is corrected. A replacement drawing sheet including corrected Figure 1 is attached to this Amendment.

The Examiner is kindly requested to review the amendments to the specification and drawings made herein, and withdraw the objections to the drawings.

In the Action, claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The Examiner asserts the claims contain subject matter which was not described in the specification such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. Specifically, the Examiner asserts it is not understood what the RRT at pad 31 and CRT at pad 71 in a Figure 1 really are since they are not described

in the specification. The Examiner asks if they are the same signals at the inputs of NAND gate 105 or not.

As noted above in connection with Figure 1 of the application, the specification is amended herein to make it clear “[t]he row-replacement circuit 30 has a test pad 31 to which a test signal RRT is applied” and “[t]he column switching circuit 70 has a test pad 71 to which a test signal CRT is applied” (added language underlined). In response to the Examiner’s question, the application clearly discloses that the same test signals RRT and CRT are also inputted to AND gate 105 (see, for example, page 8, lines 20-23). The application discloses that by applying both of the test signals at high level prior to testing the redundant memory cells, it can be advantageously determined from the resultant output data DOUT whether there are logic errors in the test circuit, defects in the circuit patterns formed, or contact failure of the probes at contact pads 31 and 71 (see, for example, page 9, lines 2-19).

The clarifications added to the specification are not only supported by Figure 1, but also by the original claims, which are considered part of the disclosure. For example, claim 5, which has not been amended, recites “first and second electrodes applied with a test signal for setting a test condition from outside in testing the first and second redundant memory cells”, “wherein when the test signal is applied to both the first and second electrodes to set the test condition for the first and second redundant memory cells, the output circuit is configured to output a signal at a fixed level.” Hence, it is clear that the amendments made herein to specification do not add any new matter. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the changes to the specification and withdraw the §112, first paragraph rejection.

Claims 2-3 are amended herein to correct a minor informality in the preamble of each claim. New dependent claims 9-20 are added to protect additional features of the invention disclosed in the application.

In summary, it is submitted that this Amendment places the application in condition for allowance. Notice of allowance and the passing of this application to issue, are earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that a conference would be of value in expediting the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned counsel to arrange for such a conference.

Respectfully submitted,



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September 7, 2005
Date

PGA/

Attachment:

Replacement Drawing Sheet (Fig. 1)

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please replace Figure 1 of the drawings with the corrected figure contained on the Replacement Drawing Sheet attached to this Amendment.